



Memorandum

Date: March 5, 2004
To: Interested Parties
From: Kurt Kroner
Re: Release of the Final EIR for the Freeport Regional Water Project

Enclosed is a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Freeport Regional Water Project (FRWP). As lead agency, the Freeport Regional Water Authority (FRWA) has prepared the enclosed Final EIR in accordance to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Final EIR, together with the Draft EIR, analyzes the No Action Alternative; four alternatives for the Freeport Intake Facility to the Zone 40 Surface Water Treatment Plant and Mokelumne Aqueducts project; and the Freeport Intake Facility to Zone 40 Surface Water Treatment Plant/Enlarge Pardee Reservoir Alternative. The purposes of the project include: (1) to support acquisition of additional Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) surface water entitlements to promote efficient conjunctive use of groundwater in its Zone 40 area, consistent with the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement and County of Sacramento General Plan policies; (2) provide facilities through which SCWA can deliver existing and anticipated surface water entitlements to Zone 40 area; (3) provide facilities through which East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) can take delivery of a supplemental supply of water that would substantially meet its need for water and reduce existing and future customer deficiencies during droughts; and (4) improve EBMUD system reliability and operational flexibility during droughts, catastrophic events, and scheduled major maintenance at Pardee Dam or Reservoir. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is responsible for completion of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project.

Public workshops to discuss the purpose and content of the EIR/EIS were held in April 2002. The Draft EIR/EIS was released to the public for review and comment between August 8 and December 15, 2003. Public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS/EIR were held in September through December 2003. The Final EIR contains comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR and responses to those comments.

FRWA is releasing this document for CEQA purposes. Reclamation is currently reviewing the document to assure compliance with NEPA regulations prior to its formal release as a Final EIS.

Additional CD copies may be requested from Mr. Kurt Kroner, Freeport Regional Water Authority, at 916-326-5489, or via e-mail at k.kroner@frwa.com. The Draft and Final EIR documents are also accessible from the following website: www.freeportproject.org